



JON W. FULLINWIDER
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

500 West Temple Street
493 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 974-2008
Facsimile: (213) 633-4733

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

AUTHORIZATION TO USE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUNDS (ITF) TO SUPPORT DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve and authorize the use of \$1,000,000 from the Information Technology Fund (ITF) to support the County Public Library's project – *Wireless Access (WiFi) Project*.

PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

In their August 8, 2005 meeting, the ITF Executive Committee voted to recommend support of the Library's project proposal grant award from the Information Technology Fund. Your Board's approval of the recommended action will authorize one ITF grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to support this project.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The County Public Library's Wireless Access (WiFi) project proposal is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan in supporting Goal 1 – Service Excellence and Goal 4 – Fiscal Responsibility.

JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On August 8, 2005, the ITF Executive Committee voted to recommend Board approval of the Public Library's Wireless Access (WiFi) project.

The world of information delivery has changed significantly in the past few years. This change presents challenges in meeting public demand for the County of Los Angeles Public Library's extensive collections of online information resources. Limited funding and facility space constraints have prevented the County Public Library from providing the number of computers needed at their 84 library buildings.

This grant will support the Library's efforts to install wireless local area networks (WiFi) in their 84 community libraries as a cost-effective way for the Library to meet public demand for access to the Internet and the Library's online resources. By enabling the general public to utilize their own portable communication tools, such as laptops, PDAs and cell phones, public access to the Internet and Library resources will be expanded beyond the Library's current limited ability to provide public use of computers. To ensure that minors and other patrons of the library are not subjected to information they may find offensive, the Public Library will filter the content delivered over the WiFi network. Patrons that have a need to access adult content or sites that may be objectionable to others will be directed to unfiltered workstations (equipped with privacy screens) that are available in the adult portion of the library.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total project cost is \$2,000,000. Following approval by your Board, \$1,000,000 will be awarded from the ITF to support this project. A separate grant of \$1,000,000 from the County's Productivity Investment Fund will balance the project cost. Maintenance for this project will be supported by the Public Library's Information Technology Services staff in close coordination with the Internal Services Department, and maintenance costs will be funded through the Library's services and supplies budget. The recommended action will not require additional net County cost.

There are no other fiscal impacts.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

There are no legal requirements or prohibitions related to these recommended actions.

IMPACT OF CURRENT SERVICES

Wireless Internet access at the Public Library will serve as a service enhancement as well as provide future cost avoidance. By going WiFi, the Public Library will be able to provide additional Internet access points to meet the expanding demand while at the same time reduce the need to purchase all of the computers needed to meet that demand. Cost avoidance of \$9-\$10 million will be achieved over time by reducing the number of computers that will need to be purchased, replaced and upgraded to meet the public demand. In addition, WiFi customers will not be bound by the one-hour time limit currently required to meet the demand for the Public Library's public access

computers. It will also increase staff productivity by providing easy access to online databases from any point in the library. It is anticipated that the knowledge and the technological expertise gained from this project may serve as a model program for other departments that provide public access to the Internet.

CONCLUSION

Your Board's approval of the recommended actions will authorize an ITF grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the County of Los Angeles Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,



JON W. FULMER
Chief Information Officer

JWF:JEW:JSL

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Margaret Donnellan Todd, County Librarian
Raoul Freeman, Chair, ISC
Cindy Lee, CAO Analyst
ITF Project